A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN

Harudaki and Fairy Rose

Tsutaete Ii no

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CHAPTER 4

I LIKE
TANIBE-SAN

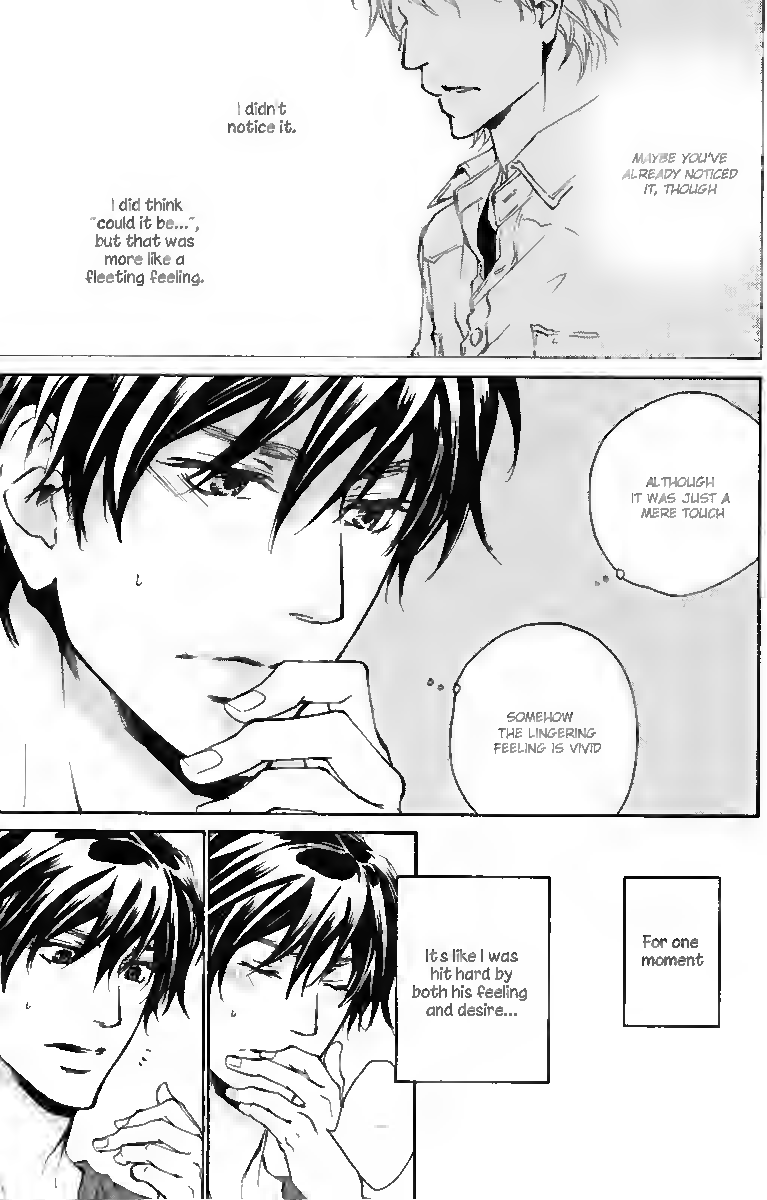
UHM...
MIKI-KUN, THAT'S...?
NO...
THAT'S WHY
IT'S LIKE WHAT I SAID
I'M QUITE STRAIGHT-FORWARD.
MAYBE YOU'VE ALREADY NOTICED IT, THOUGH.

NO...
I MEAN
ARE YOU SERIOUS...?
I'M SERIOUS...!

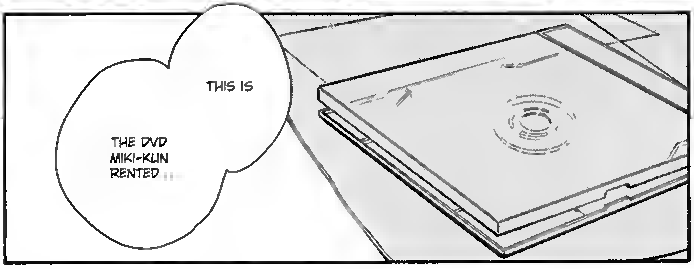
IT'S THIS MEANING OF "LIKE".
TURN!
SORRY
I'M GOING HOME.

SLAM

HE SUR-
PRISED ME


I didn't notice it.
I did think "could it be...", but that was more like a fleeting feeling.
MAYBE YOU'VE ALREADY NOTICED IT, THOUGH
ALTHOUGH IT WAS JUST A MERE TOUCH
SOMEHOW THE LINGERING FEELING IS VIVID
For one moment
It's like I was hit hard by both his feeling and desire...

AH.


THIS IS
THE DVD MIKI-KUN RENTED!!

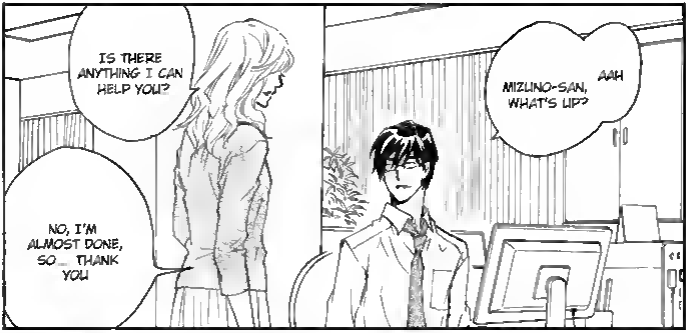
blank
NAO-KUN
OH
SLAP!
SPLASH
YO!
...
...OH?

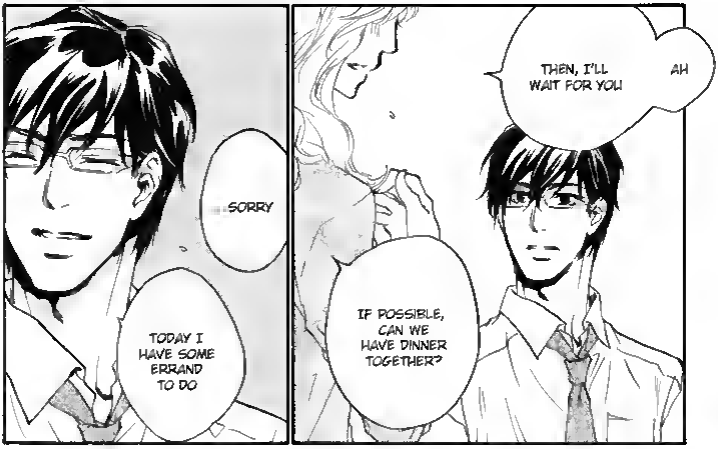
I just wet the handkerchief
Thanks
I'M REALLY SORRY
WILL IT BE STAINED..?
WELL.. NOT A BIG DEAL
MY FAULT FOR BEING ABSENT-MINDED TOO
DID YOU SLEEP PROPERLY LAST NIGHT?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
Blink
Wipe
Wipe

AH, SORRY.
YOU'RE TOO LOUD
TO THAT SALARY MAN?!
YOU CONFESSED?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT, AND YET
ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT...
MOREOVER, I KISSED HIM TOO...
...FOR REAL?

HE DREW BACK COMPLETELY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. MY HEAD WAS SPINNING AROUND. I HARDLY HAD ANY SLEEP ALL WEEKEND...
AH...
FIRST TIME I SAW NAOFUMI LIKE THIS
And yet over something like romance
WELL
CHEER UP!
BUT HE WAS PUT OFF BIG TIME, RIGHT?
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH THAT SALARY MAN, ISN'T IT FINE ONCE YOU FIND YOUR NEXT LOVE IN SCHOOL?
...
...HE HASN'T COMPLETELY REJECTED ME...
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'LL CALL THE JUNIOR GIRLS AND THROW A JOINT PARTY! OK?!
...NO NEED...

IT'S ABOUT TIME I CAN LEAVE
I HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GO TO RENTAL SHOP WHILE IT'S STILL OPEN
I DON'T KNOW IF MIKI-KUN IS THERE TODAY, BUT GUESS I'LL RETURN THE DVD FROM THE OTHER DAY
BUT IF MIKI-KUN IS NOT THERE, THEN RETURNING IT IS A BIT
TANIBE-SAN
MOREOVER, WE HAVEN'T WATCHED IT EITHER





Even now, I still haven't decided on what I will talk to him about.

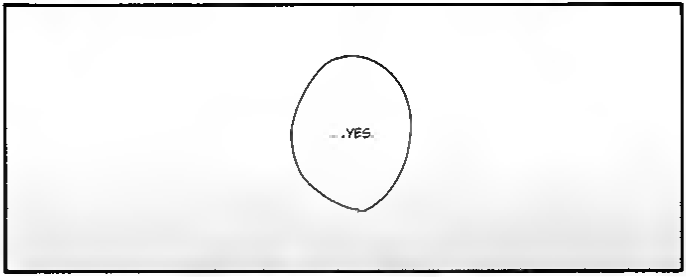
However, while my head was still spinning from what just happened, time just slipped by.

I could have gone return the DVD last weekend.

For the time being I'll wander around the s ion
WHAT NOW?
AS EXPECTED, IT'S NO GOOD TO JUST RETURN IT
I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW
HE'S NOT HERE...
DOESN'T HE HAVE SHIFT TODAY?
.....
I'M NOT MENTALLY PREPARED YET !!
AH...
THERE HE IS!
BUT

G
GOOD EVENING
GOOD EVENING
UHM...
THIS IS THE DVD FROM THE OTHER DAY
MIKI-KUN IS THE ONE RENTED IT
SO I THINK I SHOULD GIVE IT BACK DIRECTLY TO YOU...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE
EH
YEAH.
SORRY
UHM
ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...
MIKI-KUN

WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR STANDING AROUND TALKING
CAN YOU COME OVER AFTER FINISHING HERE?


...YES.

DING-DONG

BUT I BOUGHT THESE
SO PLEASE TAKE THEM.
EH?
NO...
UHM. YOU'RE NOT COMING IN?
YOU'RE NOT COMING IN, BUT YOU BOUGHT DRINKS?
TO TELL THE TRUTH, WHEN I BOUGHT THEM
I THOUGHT I'D COME IN IF IT'S OK WITH YOU
BUT I'M AFRAID I'D GET CARRIED AWAY LIKE THE OTHER DAY AND KISS YOU, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
AH...
;

YES.
I WANNA ASK YOU AGAIN.
WHAT YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY... IS THAT MEANING?

FRANKLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY ME?

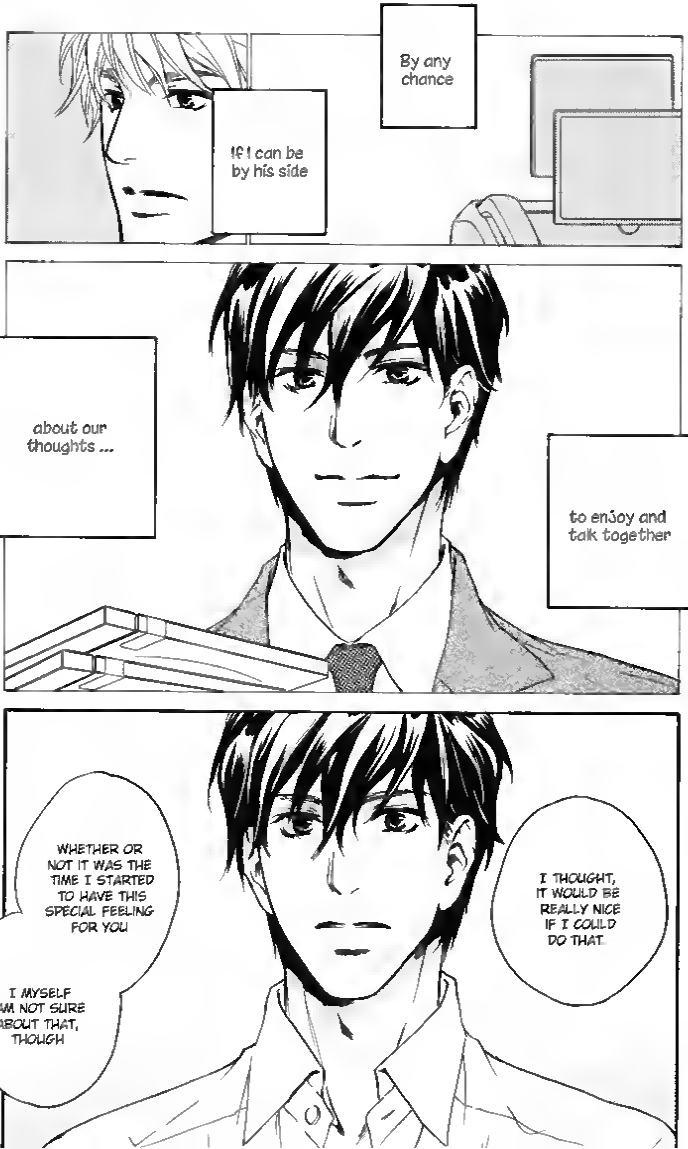
LONG TIME AGO.
I'VE ALREADY BEEN INCLINED TO TANIBE-SAN
New!!

WHY, YOU ASKED ?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT CLEARLY, BUT...

Although I didn't have the chance to talk to you properly...
I was aware of the customer who has the movie tastes close to mine.
AH
TODAY HE'S WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND
THESE TWO PLEASE
AS EXPECTED, WHEN THEY WATCH TOGETHER
THE FILMS MATCH HER TASTE
New films for 2 days
SO, NEXT TIME WHEN HE COMES TO RETURN THESE, HE WILL RENT SOMETHING THAT HE HIMSELF WANTS TO SEE
THAT'S ALWAYS THE PATTERN
Thank you very much.

THEIR TASTES ARE QUITE DIFFERENT...
IF I WERE HER, I'D ASK HIM TO SHOW ME HIS FAVORITES OCCASIONALLY, THOUGH
TO HER, IS HE A SWEET PERSON...?
WELL, MAYBE HE'S THE TYPE THAT WANTS TO WATCH FILMS ON HIS OWN WITHOUT RUSHING
WAIT...
WAIT A SEC
And then, before long
Tanibe-san started to come to the shop alone.

AFTER THAT, I GOT CURIOUS ABOUT YOU EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE..
YES
Knowing about them is very embarrassing, though
Things like activity pattern and the break we with my girlfriend
...THAT LONG AGO...?
Is he feeling happy now?
Now that he can watch the films he likes alone and comfortably
As expected, now he watches the films by himself?
He wants to have somebody by his side to watch and enjoy these films together?
Or else

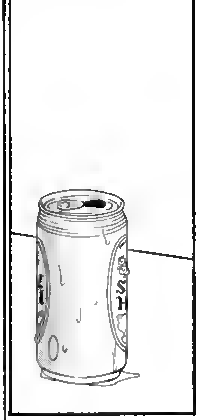

By any chance
If I can be by his side
about our thoughts ...
to enjoy and talk together
WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS THE TIME I STARTED TO HAVE THIS SPECIAL FEELING FOR YOU
I MYSELF AM NOT SURE ABOUT THAT, THOUGH
I THOUGHT, IT WOULD BE REALLY NICE IF I COULD DO THAT

WELL, IT'D BE A LIE IF I SAID I DIDN'T DRAW BACK AT ALL
NO... UHM
BUT, IT'S MORE LIKE PURE SURPRISE
SO, ABOUT THIS
I GUESS YOU'LL DRAW BACK?
TO TELL THE TRUTH
I ENJOY THE TIMES WITH MIKI-KUN. THEY'RE COMFORTABLE.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T FEEL HAPPY AT ALL THAT YOU HAVE SPECIAL FEELING FOR ME
!

BUT STILL, IT'S DIFFICULT
TO LOOK AT MIKI-KUN FROM A ROMANTIC POINT-OF-VIEW THIS SUDDENLY
OF COURSE I DON'T PLAN TO IGNORE MIKI-KUN'S FEELING, EITHER
SO, IF POSSIBLE
LET'S TRY DATING?

...
IS IT OK...?
IF WE TAKE IT SLOWLY
WELL, EVEN IF WE START DATING NOW
MAYBE IT'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING UP UNTIL NOW

I WON'T RUSH IT...
WAIT
MIKI-KUN?
I JUST SAID LET'S TAKE IT SLOWLY...
SO, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO DO THIS MUCH.
IT'S JUST AN EMBRACE
PAT PAT
NN...



AWKWARD...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FELT THIS
...
"I WON'T RUSH IT
SO PLEASE ALLOW ME TO DO THIS MUCH

HE LIKES ME THAT MUCH?
I JUST DON'T GET IT AT ALL...
I MEAN, WHY DOES HE LIKE ME...
WORN OUT.

To: Tanabe Kazue
Sub: Friday
I worked again.
click click
AH
NAOFUMI~~!
Brr..

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M TRYING TO HELP MENDING NAO-KUN'S BROKEN HEART...
HUH...?
I SAID I'M GOOD WITH THE JOINT PARTY, DIDN'T I?
WHAT TIME IS GOOD FOR YOU?
REMEMBER THE JOINT PARTY I SAID YESTERDAY? I TALKED TO THE JUNIORS GIRLS, THEY'RE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT
THEY ASKED ME TO CALL THEM WHEN THE DATE IS FIXED

NO, THINGS ARE NOT THAT CONVENIENT
IT TURNED OUT TO BE A MUTUAL LOVE WITH THAT SALARY MAN?
WHAT? COULD IT BE
HUH?
I'M ALL FINE NOW
NO

WE'LL TAKE IT SLOWLY AND SEE
WELL

"I rented again that DVD we didn't get to see last weekend. Can we watch it on Friday night at Tanabe-san's place?"
HUUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T GET IT.
BRRR BRRR
FLICK
"Ok."
NAO-KUN EXPLAIN TO ME!
"As expected, that's a must-see, I guess."
"I'll be waiting."